

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 FRB-03 OMB-01

TAR-02 SP-03 SWF-02 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00

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TRSE-00 CIEP-03 CEA-02 SS-20 DRC-01 L-03 H-03 PA-04

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7723

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TAGS: EGEN, UNCTAD, OECD, MX

SUBJECT: US VOTE ON CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND
DUTIES

REF: GENEVA 5670, 5654, 5737

TREASURY PASS BRADFIELD

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT US-MEXICAN RELATIONS
WILL BE FACTOR IN DETERMINING HOW THE US VOTES IN THE
UNGA ON THE CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES. IT
IS EMBASSY'S VIEW THAT BASIC DECISION US VOTE ON CHARTER,
WHICH MUST BE TAKEN AFTER CONSIDERATION MANY FACTORS,
SHOULD BE MADE ON ITS OWN MERITS WITH THE CONFIDENCE
THAT A NEGATIVE VOTE, THOUGH PAINFUL TO THE MEXICANS
IN THE SHORT RUN, AND POSSIBLY AFFECTING THE PROPOSED
MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA,
WOULD BE SOMETHING WE COULD LIVE WITH. EMBASSY URGES THAT
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IF USDEL RECOMMENDATION CONTAINED GENEVA 5670

IS ADOPTED, WE MAKE EARLY HIGH LEVEL APPROACHES TO GOM OUTLINING OUR POSITION. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT NEGATIVE US VOTE WOULD RESULT IN ADVERSE PRESS FLURRY HERE WHICH WOULD DIE OUT SHORTLY IN FACE OF LACK OF GENUINE MEXICAN PUBLIC INTEREST IN UN VOTING RECORDS. END SUMMARY.

2. ON ASSUMPTION THAT EFFECT ON US-MEXICAN RELATIONS OF US VOTE ON PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN FINAL DECISION ON RECOMMENDATIONS BY USDEL IN GENEVA 5670, WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

A. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A POSITIVE VOTE ON THE CHARTER WOULD REAP FOR THE US A FAVORABLE REACTION FROM THE GOM. IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW, AND GIVEN THE REALITIES OF PRESENT US-MEXICAN RELATIONS, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT A POSITIVE VOTE WOULD HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE IMPORTANT AND COMPLEX BILATERAL ISSUES WHICH ARE NOW FACING US. IT SEEMS FAR MORE LIKELY TO US THAT THE FAVORABLE REACTION WOULD BE EPHEMERAL IN NATURE.

B. AN ABSTENTION ON OUR PART WOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ON US-MEXICAN RELATIONS. BY ABSTAINING, WE WOULD DENY OURSELVES EVEN THE FLEETING ADVANTAGES OF A POSITIVE VOTE WHILE RUNNING THE RISK, AS POINTED OUT BY USDEL (GENEVA 5670), THAT CHARTER PASSED WITH US ABSTENTION RATHER THAN OVER OUR NEGATIVE VOTE COULD IN FUTURE BE MORE READILY REPRESENTED AS AUTHORITY.

C. US HAS ON MANY OCCASIONS DISPLAYED HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON CHARTER (E.G. KISSINGER-RABASA CONVERSATIONS AND MAW-RABASA AGREEMENT). WE HAVE MADE IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS, WHILE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT THERE ARE LIMITS BEYOND WHICH WE CANNOT GO. WE HAVE BEEN STYMIED IN OUR EFFORTS IN PART BECAUSE OF MEXICAN FAILURE TO DELIVER ON MAW-RABASA AGREEMENT. DESPITE THIS, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT A NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE CHARTER, WHICH IS BRAINCHILD OF MEXICAN PRESIDENT AND WHICH GOM HAS BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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ASSIDUOUSLY FOSTERING, WOULD DISTRESS PRESIDENT AND SOME OF HIS PRINCIPAL ADVISORS. THUS, DEPARTMENT WILL WANT TO CONSIDER THAT NEGATIVE VOTE MIGHT WELL AFFECT PLANS FOR AND EVEN THE TONE OF HOPED-FOR MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND PRESIDENT FORD.

D. LOOKING AT POSSIBLE LONG-TERM EFFECTS, EMBASSY IS MUCH IMPRESSED BY ARGUMENT THAT NEGATIVE VOTE WOULD

PROVIDE SIGNAL TO THE MEXICANS AND POSSIBLY TO OTHERS IN THE GROUP OF 77 THAT TACTICS RECENTLY EMPLOYED TO PUSH US BACK FROM POSITION TO POSITION IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS WITHOUT OFFERING SIGNIFICANT COMPROMISES ARE SIMPLY NOT PRODUCTIVE. A US POSITION ALONG THE LINES OF THAT RECOMMENDED IN PARA NINE OF GENEVA 5670 MIGHT WELL, IN OUR VIEW, IMPROVE OUR LONG TERM POSITION IN NEGOTIATING WITH THE MEXICANS IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS. WE HOPE, OF COURSE, THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE AN ACCEPTABLE CHARTER, OR, FAILING THAT, TO REACH AGREEMENT FOR FURTHER WORKING GROUP SESSIONS NEXT YEAR.

3. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT IN EVENT USDEL RECOMMENDATION IS ADOPTED MEXICANS BE APPROACHED VERY EARLY ON AT HIGH LEVEL, AND INFORMED OF OUR INTENTION. THIS COULD INVOLVE AMBASSADOR CALLING ON PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, OR A CALL ON FONSEC RABASA. IN ANY CASE, EARLY AND FULL GOM UNDERSTANDING OF US POSITION AT HIGHEST LEVEL WOULD SERVE, WE BELIEVE, TO REDUCE ADVERSE EFFECTS, AND PERHAPS TO ENCOURAGE FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS (GENEVA 5683). EARLY HIGH-LEVEL APPROACH ALSO WILL INSURE THAT MEXICAN PRESIDENT AND FONSEC WILL HAVE RECEIVED FIRST INDICATION OF US POSITION FROM US RATHER THAN THROUGH THIRD PARTIES. ONE POINT WHICH MIGHT BE USEFULLY MADE IN THIS APPROACH IS THAT FOREIGN PRIVATE DIRECT INVESTMENT, WHICH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA PERSONALLY AND THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES INSISTS HE WANTS IN MEXICO, WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE DISCOURAGED BY THE PASSAGE IN THE UNGA OF A CHARTER DRAFTED IN THE EXTREME FORM DESIRED BY MANY MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF 77.

4. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT NEGATIVE US VOTE, IF IT
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COMES TO THAT, WOULD MOST LIKELY RESULT IN ADVERSE PUBLICITY IN MEXICAN MEDIA, PARTICULARLY FROM SUCH LEFT-WING, OFTEN ANTI-US PUBLICATIONS AS THE DAILY NEWSPAPER EXCELSIOR. SUCH A MEDIA FLURRY PROBABLY WOULD BE SHORT-LIVED, AND WOULD SOON DIE OUT UNLESS (AS SEEMS UNLIKELY) IT WERE DELIBERATELY FED BY THE GOM. THE MEXICAN PUBLIC IS NOT EASILY AROUSED BY SUCH QUESTIONS AS UN VOTES, AND WE FEEL THAT THERE WOULD BE LITTLE GENUINE PUBLIC REACTION HERE TO UR VOTE.
BRANDIN

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